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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,567	04/03/2006	Peter Joseph Unsworth	BKB-004US	5511
959	7590	08/22/2007	EXAMINER	
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE BOSTON, MA 02109-2127			TSAI, CAROL S W	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2857		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		08/22/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/516,567	UNSWORTH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Carol S. Tsai	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/13/2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 18-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 18-21,23-28,30 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 22,29,31-36 and 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 18, 19, 23-28, 30, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,095,760 to Lew in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,876,897 to DeCarlo et al.

As to claims 18, 19, 23-28, 30, and 37, Lew discloses a method of monitoring or determining a flow rate of at least one fluid phase in a closed conduit having a vortex flowmeter through which a fluid to be monitored flows, said flowmeter having a sensor adapted to provide a signal from which a shedding frequency may be derived, the method comprising (see Fig. 1 and col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 33): obtaining the signal from the sensor and determining the shedding frequency value from the signal related to a frequency at which vortices are shed in the vortex flowmeter, and also determining from the signal a signal amplitude-related value related to an amplitude of the signal at the shedding frequency (see Abstract, lines 1-14); and using both the shedding frequency value and the amplitude-related value to determine the flow rate of the at least one fluid phase, said amplitude related value being used, at a particular shedding frequency,

to assist in the determination of the flow rate of the at least one fluid phase (see col. 6, lines 44-58).

Lew does not disclose a two or a three phase fluid flow.

DeCarlo et al. teach a two or a three phase fluid flow (see Abstract, lines 1-13).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lew's method to include a two or a three phase fluid flow, as taught by DeCarlo et al., because a two-phase fluid flow requires the knowledge of the mass flow rates of both the gas and the liquid phases in order that measurement of four independent variables (i. e., the velocities and densities of each phase) can be determined instead of using a single phase fluid (gas or liquid) to determine the measurement of two variables: the flow rate and the density (see col. 4, lines 35-50).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 22, 29, 31-36 and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-21, 23-28, 30, and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

cswt
August 20, 2007
Art Unit 2857



CAROL S.W. TSAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER